

Hall of Fame Nominees

2019

FACULTY/ADMINISTRATOR

Sherry Hart

Sherry Hart was an overall general leader and mentor to many young women and men as the cheerleading coach for 20+ years at Western High School. She found her life's mission in teaching working with students for 56 years. Sherry continued helping students as a substitute teacher and then as a part-time teacher for Jefferson County High School until June 2018. Sadly, she passed away on September 11, 2018.

Mary Jane Madden

Mary Jane was a teacher at Western from 1965 to 1987 and achieved the status of Distinguished Teacher. She developed classroom curriculum which was instituted County-Wide.

Dr. Michael Newman

Dr. Newman has worked at Western High School since 2006. During this time, he has taught English, became an Assistant Principal, developed the Early College Program, and became Principal. In Dr. Newman's five years as Principal, he has worked tirelessly to improve student outcomes. Furthermore, he has led the charge to establish Western's first alumni association - bringing about a desire to establish the heritage of this great school.

Maggie Wade

Maggie Wade was a Home Economics teacher at Western High School who also served as Drill Team Sponsor and Chairperson of the Homecoming for many years. She was a strong supporter of all Western High School endeavors.

Preston O'Bannon Young Jr.

Preston Young served as Coach and Athletic Director from 1961 to 1984. He spent many hours building the football field stands, baseball field stands and concession area, installing lights and press box. Western and mostly the students held a special place in his heart.

ATHLETICS ACHIEVEMENTS

David Britt

David Britt attended Western from 1973 - 1977 and excelled in athletics as well as other areas during that time. He broke the School Batting Record in Baseball and made the District All-Tournament Baseball Team. He went on to earn an Athletic Scholarship. He graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1986, and has been in practice since that time. He currently practices at Medical Center Internists and is affiliated with Kentucky Medical Center.

James E. Carter Jr.

Jim Carter attended Western from 1971 until 1975 during which time he played Varsity Football and accomplished the following: First freshman in Western's history to play Varsity Football; All-County Team his Junior and Senior years; First Junior to make All-County Team from Western; Selected to play in City-County All-Star game; tied School Record for most solo tackles in a single game; set School Record for Longest Field Goal – 37 yards; had longest punt average in school history – 45 yards, and served as Captain his Senior year. In addition to football, Jim also wrestled placing 2nd in Regional Tournament his Senior Year. He also played on Track Team for 3 years – placing 2nd in the Region for the shot put and discus throw. Jim was 1 of 3 Jefferson County Students listed in Who's Who for High School Athletics during his Senior Year.

In 2015 Jim was contacted by Western Principal Michael Newman regarding forming an Alumni Association for Western and asked to serve as Interim President until an election could be held. He worked tirelessly with other Alumni, Mr. Newman and other successful Alumni Associations to implement the Western High School Alumni Association. Jim was subsequently elected President – an office he currently holds.

Kerry Dean Geary

1977 Alumni Dean Geary had been an athletic trainer and director since graduating from WKU with a BS in Health & Safety Education, as well as a MS from UK in School Health. He has received multiple awards throughout his career including the Kentucky Athletic Trainers Society Award of Merit, the KATS High School Trainer of the Year Award and the Southeast Athletic Trainers Association High School Athletic Trainer of the Year. In 2016 Dean received the KATS Highest Honor by being inducted as the 13th member of the KATS Hall of Fame. Dean currently serves as Chairman of the State Advisory Council on Athletic Trainers to Kentucky Board of Medicine Licensure, the Assistant Medical Coordinator of the Bluegrass State Games. He also volunteers his time as a certified EMT.

Marilyn Martin

At Western, Marilyn Martin was a Cheerleader and part of the squad that won State in 1971. She also participated in the Choir, was a soloist and became a Professional singer and songwriter, performing with famous names such as Stevie Nicks and Tom Petty. She is best known for her 1985 hit duet with Phil Collins (Separate Lives). Marilyn also has released several recordings.

Michael T. Walker

Mike Walker graduated in 1974 and was the Record holder for men's 200-meter dash (22.0 seconds).

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Butch Chambers

Butch Chambers attended Western from 1974 to 1977. He was Class President his Junior year and Class Vice President his Senior year. He was also President of the Key Club, the Pep Club, the Student Senate and a member of the class council for several years. He played on the football team and was made the team captain.

Butch was filled with Warrior Spirit during and after his time at Western High School. In 2010 Butch stepped forward to create an all-class Alumni reunion to bring everyone together. It was held at Mike Linnig's Restaurant and was a huge success with over 500 classmates attending. He used this opportunity to raise money for a former classmate struggling with cancer and repeated the event the following year. The successful events he planned brought everyone together. He offered his help to any class that needed assistance at their reunion, often serving as DJ at these events. He also organized other small all-class events and promoted the idea of all alumni working together to elevate current Western High School students.

Langston Gaither

Since graduating from WHS in 2002, Langston Gaither has been heavily involved in community engagement. Langston is a former minor professional athlete and Little League Coach. He obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration and Business Entrepreneurship from Simmons College of Kentucky. Additionally, he has taken on various business ventures through his company Gaither Design, including successfully developing a football helmet that reduces concussions. He led the design and development of the helmet through patent pending process. Langston is former executive director of a local non-profit organization and a former firefighter for Lake Dreamland Fire Department. He also serves on various boards in the community.

Dr. Tracy Ford Inman

Tracy Ford graduated from Western in 1982. While at Western, Tracy served on the Westettes Dance Team, Yearbook Editor, Class President (Freshman Year), and Beta Club. Tracy was Valedictorian of the Class of 1982.

Tracy received her Doctorate Degree in Gifted and Talented Studies from Western Kentucky University. Since then she has pioneered education in a way that only she could. Gifted and Talented students from over the State have a place of intellectual and project-based learning. She is shaping the great minds of all our future through her efforts in education. She has taught in high school, post-secondary education, published many books, and trained 1000's of teachers in differentiation and gifted education. She is the Associate Director of the Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University and serves as a Parent Representative, NAGC Board of Directors.

Donna K. Korycinski (Cecil)

Donna Cecil graduated from Western in 1982. During her two years at Western, she successfully worked to establish a Math Team which competed her Senior Year. She was also the President of the Beta Club her Senior Year and a member of the National Honor Society, the German Club and in the school play.

Donna received a BS in Mathematics from Morehead State University, an MS in Engineering, a Ph.D. in Engineering and Operations Research/ Industrial Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. She is also a certified U.S. Army Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt. Donna served in the Army for 30 years as a UH-60 Blackhawk Pilot and Senior Army Aviator during which time she achieved a multitude of honors and awards which include being selected as the Fort Rucker Female Athlete of the Year in 1992 and receiving the Department of Defense (DoD) Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Role Model Award in 2010. In 2006 she was selected to teach at the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, NY where she taught and mentored cadets for 10 years to be the future leaders of the Army. She served at the Program Director level where her Program was recognized as the Best Engineering Management Program in the Nation 3 years in a row by the American Society for Engineering Management; she eventually rose to be selected as Deputy Head (2010) and later served as Acting Head (2012) of the Department of Systems Engineering at West Point. She deployed in 2009 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to assist in the further development of the National Military Academy of Afghanistan in Kabul. She retired in 2016 with the rank of Colonel and was inducted in the Honorable Order of Saint Michael for her lifetime of service to the U.S. Army Aviation Branch.

David Wheeler

David Wheeler graduated from Western in 1979 and was active in the Western Marching Band and International Thespian Society. Since then his list of achievements is impressive: 10 years of service in the Arts & Chairman of the Arts District; Who's Who Worldwide Registry 1992/93; The Weather Channel 1987-89; Executive Producer/Founder Career TV national TV show & website sold 2005; Executive Producer of over 100 episodes, career-related TV magazine NY, CT, NJ, PA.; Executive Director, Miss America Scholarship pageant, Orlando's Miss City Beautiful, Miss Central Florida & Miss Kissimmee. He received a Proclamation by the Mayor of Orlando designating Nov. 5th is "David Wheeler Day" in the City of Orlando.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

No nominees at this time.